relations including with Bangladesh. Pakistan is however continuing its compulsive hostility and sponsorship of cross border terrorism into India.

(b) to (d) India remains firmly committed to the path of dialogue and reconciliation with Pakistan in keeping with the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration. India has repeatedly called upon Pakistan to end its sponsorship of terrorism in India so that a conducive environment can be created forthe resumption of bilateral dialogue.

Sympathy for Al-Qaida in Pakistani nuclear programme

†245. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that famous American magazine 'Newyorker' has termed Pakistan as the most dangerous country of the world;

(b) whether this magazine has given indications of a lot of sympathy for Al-Qaida in Pakistani nuclear programme;

(c) if so, whether Government's reaction on exchange of nuclear programme between Pakistan and Al-Qaida has been conveyed to America; and

(d) the details of the steps assured by America in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) Government has seen a number of U.S. media reports that have raised concerns about Pakistan, including on the links between Al Qaida and officials associated with Pakistan's nuclear programme.

(c) Government has conveyed to the U.S. Government its concerns in this reard as also on Pakistan's role in proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

(d) The United States has ongoing dialogue on nuclear security issues with Pakistan, announced during the visit of President Musharraf to Washington D.C. in February 2002.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.